

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-65

A RESOLUTION, to promote the health and wellness of Wenatchee residents and visitors by establishing City of Wenatchee Parks and Recreation facilities as tobacco-free zones.

WHEREAS, the City of Wenatchee advocates and promotes good health, wellness and quality of life for its citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Wenatchee Parks and Recreation Department is to provide recreational and leisure opportunities that enhance the quality of life for its citizens and providing safe environments, and has an obligation to prohibit those activities which it deems contrary to this mission; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wenatchee has a unique opportunity to create and sustain an environment that supports a non-tobacco norm through a tobacco-free policy, and adult-peer role modeling on City-owned outdoor recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wenatchee believes parents, leaders, and officials involved in recreation are role models for youth and can have a positive effect on the lifestyle choices they make; and

WHEREAS, cigarettes, once consumed in public spaces, are often discarded on the ground requiring additional maintenance expenses, diminish the beauty of the City's recreational facilities, and pose a risk to toddlers due to ingestion; and

WHEREAS, tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death and disease in the United States, leading to more deaths than most other leading causes combined; and

WHEREAS, second hand smoke contains many harmful chemicals and cancer-causing agents, and is a serious health risk to humans, especially infants, children and pregnant women; and

WHEREAS, second hand smoke increases a non-smoker's risk for heart disease and lung cancer; and

WHEREAS, chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip (referred to as "Spit Tobacco") are tobacco products containing many harmful chemicals and cancer-causing agents, and their use is associated with cancers of the mouth, gums, tongue and throat; and

WHEREAS, the use of spit tobacco is associated with saliva, or spit, being cast upon the ground, seating areas and other surfaces in recreational settings, resulting in increased risk of non-users being exposed to the bacteria and viruses of a variety of respiratory illnesses; and

WHEREAS, smoking decreases lung function, reduces oxygen available for muscles and lungs, and slows lung growth; and

WHEREAS, tobacco-use, exposure to secondary smoke and exposure to tobacco saliva spit are contrary to enhancing the quality of life and providing safe environments; and

WHEREAS, over a two year period the City Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and City Council conducted public meetings to gather input and determine if the prohibition of tobacco use at the City's park and recreational facilities serves to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Wenatchee that the following tobacco-free policy is adopted:

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The City of Wenatchee is committed to promoting healthy individuals and maintaining a quality of life for the maximum benefit of the community; therefore, it is within our role to proactively address these facts:
 - 1.1.1 Secondhand smoke contains hundreds of harmful chemicals and carcinogens. It is a serious health risk to humans, especially infants, children and pregnant women. It is a risk factor for new cases of asthma in children. There is ample evidence that these risks exist even when exposure occurs in open areas.
 - 1.1.2 Tobacco products, once consumed in public spaces, are often discarded on the ground, thus posing a risk of ingestion to toddlers and pets, and causing a litter problem.
 - 1.1.3 As parents, leaders, coaches, officials and adults we are thought of as role models, and the use of tobacco products around youth has a negative effect on their lifestyle choices.

2.0 Policy

- 2.1 Park Properties that are owned and operated by the City of Wenatchee will be designated as "Tobacco Free," and will be identified by appropriate signage.

3.0 Procedures

- 3.1 The outdoor Tobacco Free Park Policy will be promoted and observed as a voluntary compliance policy. It is expected that tobacco users will exercise self discipline.
- 3.2 Appropriate places within city owned parks will be posted with signage designating the areas that are Tobacco Free.
- 3.3 An outreach and education strategy will be developed, with the assistance of the Chelan Douglas Health District and possibly other partners.
- 3.4 Tobacco Free policy language will be added to park rental forms, recreation activity guide and other park related information distributed to the community.
- 3.5 For the purpose of measuring the success of the program, the City of Wenatchee Parks and Recreation staff and the Chelan Douglas Health District will periodically (and passively) observe Tobacco Free sites for rates of compliance, and gathering input from park users.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WENATCHEE at a
regular meeting thereof this 19th day of November, 2009.

CITY OF WENATCHEE, a Municipal Corporation

By: 
DENNIS JOHNSON, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: 
BRENDA GUSKE, City Clerk

APPROVED:
By: 
STEVE D. SMITH, City Attorney